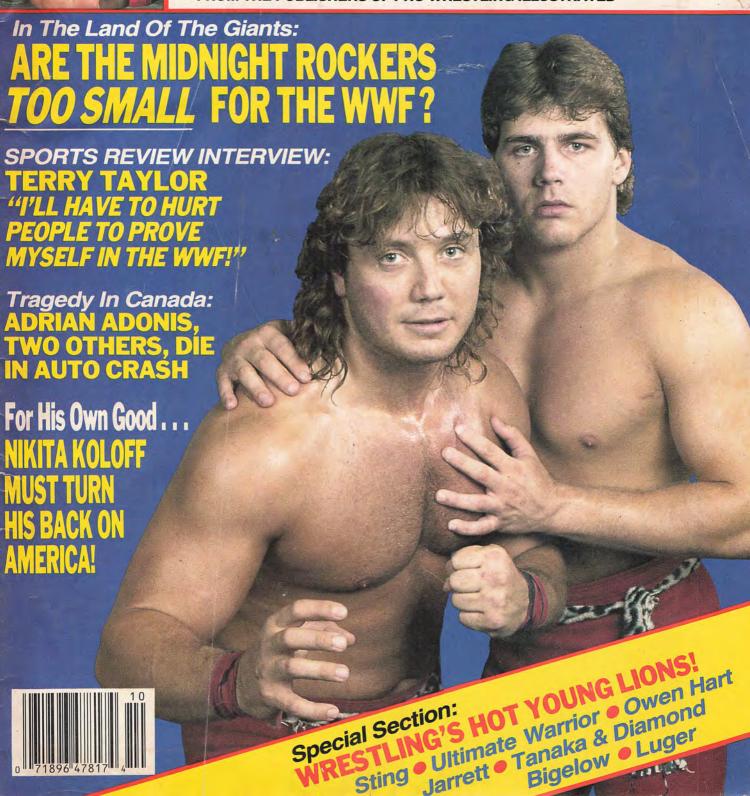


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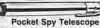
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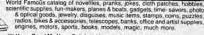
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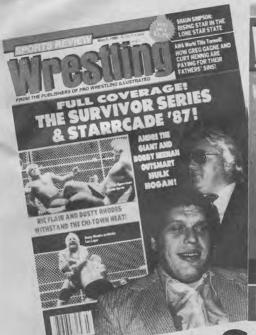
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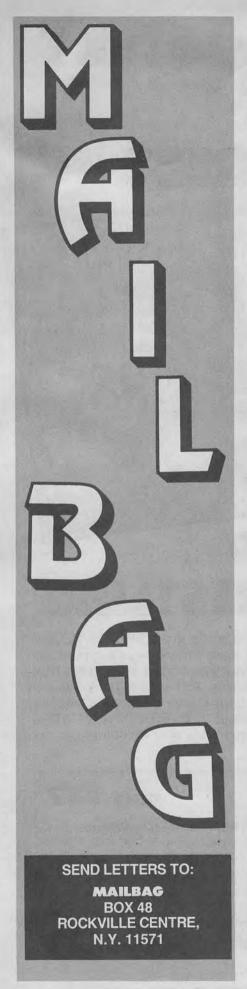
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IN A FOG

This letter is in response to Melissa Fogg's letter in the August 1988 Sports Review Wrestling, "Bravo For Dino." Ms. Fogg stated that Bravo is the world's strongest man due to his bench-press of 712 pounds at The Royal Rumble. Well, no offense, but I feel I must advise Ms. Fogg to wake up and smell the coffee.

You see, that attempt was nothing more than a tag team effort. Jesse Ventura gave Bravo substantial assistance. And if you don't believe me, Melissa, then I invite you back to my home to watch it on VCR.

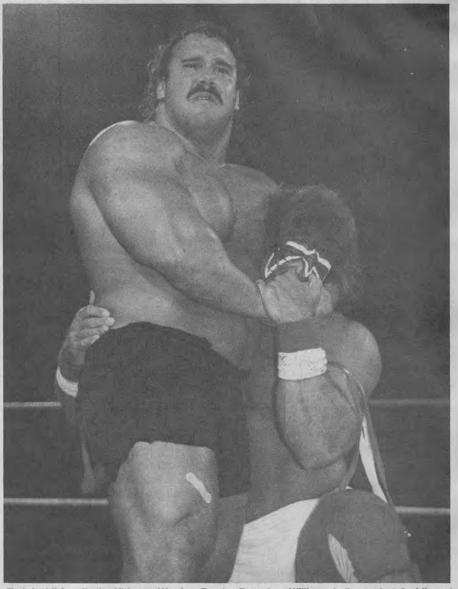
If you want to catalog the world's strongest men, look at guys like Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, The Ultimate Warrior, Don Muraco, or the man

who *legitimately* proved to be the strongest man with his 705-pound bench press, Ted Arcidi.

RYAN LEE WILLIAMS Taylor Mill, KY

HOMAGE TO ADONIS

I am writing this letter to pay homage to the late Adrian Adonis. I was really saddened to hear that Adonis, along with two other wrestlers, was killed in an automobile accident. Adonis was one of my favorite wrestlers when he was in the WWF. Whether he wrestled as the leather ruffian or as "The Adorable One," he was one of the toughest wrestlers around. My most vivid memory of Adonis was seeing him defeat then-WWF champion Hulk Hogan by disqualification in



Ted Arcidi headlocks Ultimate Warrior. Reader Ryan Lee Williams believes that Arcidi, and not Dino Bravo, is legitimately the strongest man in the sport.



Hulk Hogan is stunned by the sight of Adrian Adonis in a dress. Despite such antics, reader John Corcoran respected the late Adonis as a fine wrestler.

June 1986 at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena. I'm sure I am not alone when I say I will miss Adrian Adonis.

> JOHN CORCORAN Morristown, NJ

LOVE IS BLIND

I'm writing because I hate how fickle most fans are and how easily they
jump on bandwagons. For example,
look at "Macho Man" Randy Savage.
Gorilla Monsoon used to put down
Savage. Now he doesn't, as if "Macho
Man's" belt washes away all of Gorilla's bitter memories. Just because a
wrestler goes "good" or "bad"
shouldn't matter. I liked "Macho
Man" when he first came to the WWF
and I still like him now.

Also, just because Barry Windham became a member of the elite group known as The Four Horsemen doesn't mean that I'm going to favorably reevaluate my opinion of him.

A real fan of a wrestler won't change because a wrestler turns "good" or "bad."

MISSY BOLAND Rochester, NY

WARRIOR WRATH

I would like to direct a few words to all those people who doubted the abili-

and Animal would end their careers on the scaffold. They knew they had to leave.

So many people openly criticized The Road Warriors and said that they had met their match in The Powers of Pain. Well, as the Warriors always say, "We're the guys who say what we're gonna do—and then we do it." The Warriors have proven their ability, and all of their critics had better take notice. This includes Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson, who are sure to be the next targets of the Warrior wrath.

ROBERT MASTERSON Olympia, WA

NWA IS "DOOMED"

During several recent NWA telecasts, I have become convinced that their announcers are as bad as the ones in the WWF when it comes to lying. Lately, the NWA has been talking



The Barbarian whips Road Warrior Hawk across the ring. In reader Robert Masterson's opinion, the Warriors ran The Powers of Pain out of the NWA.

ty of The Road Warriors. What do you have to say now? The Warriors have undeniably proven that they have not lost their killer instinct by running The Powers of Pain out of the NWA.

The Barbarian and The Warlord knew that they had been beaten by The Legion of Doom and that Hawk about the "Tower of Doom" match and acting as if this is an original concept. The worst part is when Jim Ross claims Kevin Sullivan got the idea for the match at a Tibetan monastery or some such place. Nonsense! The only place Sullivan "discovered" the match (Continued on page 42)

THE E

DALLAS, TX: Gen. Skandor Akbar has enlisted Buddy Roberts and Iceman Parsons to join Kamala and Black Bart in his "army," solidifying his claim of being the most powerful force in World Class.

"This is indeed a great moment for Texas," boasted Akbar, long one of the most infamous managers in the sport. "I've got the best man from The Fabulous Freebirds, I've got two former World Class champions, and I've got the most feared savage ever to emerge from the depths of the jungle. I'll teach those Von Erichs and Michael Hayes never to trifle with the General."

Akbar was incensed at Hayes and Kerry Von Erich following a chal-



GEN. SKANDOR AKBAR

lenge he made to the fan favorites recently in Ft. Worth, Texas. Akbar interrupted an interview segment with Hayes and Von Erich, only to end up battered on the mat following some insulting comments. Surprisingly, Roberts and Parsons came to his aid.

"Wherever the great Akbar goes, you'll see me and Buddy from now on," said Parsons. "We realized we needed more help in battling those Von Erich wimps and that rooty-poot Hayes. When we're done, we'll control Texas again."

"Those bozos are full of camel droppings," said Hayes, who is still embroiled in a vicious feud with Roberts and Parsons. "I don't know why Buddy and Iceman would want to have *anything* to do with a buffoon like Akbar. All it means is that now we got another guy stickin' his nose in where it don't belong."

Tensions between Akbar and the Von Erichs escalated when Kerry met Kamala in a wild match during the July 4 spectacular at The Sportatorium in Dallas.

"Kamala has no business in this sport," said an angry Von Erich after the bout. "He doesn't even know where he is half the time. This was just the kind of match that Akbar likes. All that animal tried to do was rip me apart, but I'm more than man enough to meet the challenge."

In other World Class news, Kevin Von Erich has been named the new (Continued on page 62)

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THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

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Submitted by: Steve Binhak Flathead Lake, MN



STING

"I'd have to say it was Flair's figure-four leglock. When he got it on me at the Clash of the Champions, I thought I was finished. It was only through intense concentration and effort that I was able to reverse it on him. And it was only when I was able to get the scorpion leglock on him that I began to take charge. But the figure-four? That's a heck of a hold."



JEFF JARRETT

"Without a doubt it was when Robert Fuller used a baseball bat against me during my match with Keith Eric. I was wrestling when Fuller and his punks start beating me up, breaking my arm. As far as *legal* moves go, I'd have to say Max Pain's elbowsmash is the most potent thing I've experienced. We're friends now, but there were times I thought my chest would cave in from the force!"



BUDDY ROBERTS

"The Von Erichs use that clawhold and it's pretty powerful. It makes your whole head feel like a calf ready for the branding iron. It crushes your temples against important skull blood vessels. You wouldn't believe that a simple hand grasp could make you bleed, but a few minutes under that Von Erich claw and you'll bleed, brother, believe me."



CURT HENNIG

"I'd have to say it's the Greg Gagne sleeperhold, although I should probably say the Greg Gagne *chokehold*. He's put that thing on me, and let me tell you, it cuts off your ability to breathe. That's not a sleeperhold, as I know it. A sleeperhold is supposed to delicately hinder the flow of oxygen to the brain, causing temporary unconsciousness, not choke a man to death!"

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



EDDIE GILBERT

"Well, whenever I've wrestled that wimp Lawler, I've come to expect anything. He'll throw fire, he'll dress up as a woman, he'll use a foreign object. You never know with him. But his most powerful move, of course, is his fistdrop, although it rarely works against a seasoned professional like myself. I know how to defend myself against it."



TOM PRICHARD

"The worst move ever must have been when that lowlife scum Tony Anthony handcuffed me, put a rope around my neck, and dragged me across an entire arena. Then he tied me up against the ringpost and pulled the rope tight. That was the only time I've ever been scared in my entire career, and it happened outside the ring! I paid him back *in* the ring though!"



MAX PAIN

"It wasn't until that Phil Hickerson bum pulled out a steel chain and began choking me with it that I realized that here was a 'move' that I couldn't beat. Whenever some prelim bum tries to beat me with that chain crap, I understand what frustration is. I don't think there's any one move that can beat me, so that's why they use a chain."



RIC FLAIR

"Let me tell you, brother, whether you like it, or whether you don't like it, I'm the champion. And being the champion means that no one, not Sting, nor Dusty, nor Lex Luger, has ever put me in a move or hold that I could not reverse. Sure, a lot of people thought I was through when Sting had me in the scorpion leglock, but I'm still the champion!"



JOHN TATUM

"There is only one move I know of that is so powerful that it has the potential to be deadly. I'm talking about the top-rope splash of that fat pig Solomon Grundy. I've actually heard that guys have had their ribs broken after one of those. Good thing he's inexperienced and he telegraphs the move so clearly. He tried it on me and missed big time!"



DICK SLATER

"The only opponent I've ever feared has been Bruiser Brody. The man doesn't really have any one *move* that I fear, but it's sort of a combination of his intensity, his strength, and his brutality. He's got a great piledriver, that's true, but he's at his best when he throws you out of the ring and uses the tables, chairs, and even the timekeeper's bell against you."

he Inquiring reporter No one knows wrestling better than the fans. Because of this, we're now giving these experts a forum for their views and opinions. Each month, we'll ask a controversial question and have the fans answer-no matter what those answers might be!

THE QUESTION:

"Do you think the AWA World title will increase in prestige due to Jerry interfederation Lawler's title defenses?"

THE ANSWERS:

Michael Kaufman, Memphis, TN: "Absolutely. By going around the globe and across federation boundaries, Jerry Lawler is instilling a new sense of pride in the AWA World belt. I never understood why, in the past, one federation's champ would never challenge another champ. Lawler's doing is redefining what a champion is."

Corey Greenwald, Wichita, KS: "What the hell do I care about that wimp Lawler? The only reason he's running from the AWA is that he's scared to defend against Curt Hennig, the man who has repeatedly punished him. I don't know why everyone thinks this 'King' is some kind of hero when he patently refuses to defend his title against his federation's top challengers. Why get bogged down in a feud with Kerry Von Erich, a man who couldn't wipe the sweat off Hennig's boots? Merely beating Von Erich-something that even Lawler should have no difficulty doing-does nothing to increase



AWA World champion Jerry Lawler challenges World Class champ Kerry Von Erich to a title vs. title match in the presence of World Class official Frank Dusek. For the first time in years, a world title is being defended in other areas on a regular basis.

the champion's prestige, it only weakens him in the eyes of any real fans!"

Jeanne Carey, Milford, NJ: "Not at all. By immediately abandoning the AWA, Lawler is, in effect, saying that there is not enough competition for him to take on right there in his backyard. How does an admission of this type increase the prestige of a belt? In addition, no one will be gunning for Lawler if they think that its champion has such a low regard for the federations' talent. He should have staved in the AWA, already a step away from

(Continued on page 48)



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Hogan Topples Andre At Wrestle Mania III

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GRAPBOOK

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

1968

WF WORLD CHAMPION Bruno Sammartino successfully defended his title against Rocky Mountain champion Rocky Fitzpatrick at Madison Square Garden. Fitzpatrick submitted to the backbreaker after 8:37 of action . . . Bobo Brazil's violent feud with Gorilla Monsoon continued as they were both disqualified in the semifinal to Sammartino's title defense ... Former NWA tag team title contenders Tony Borne and Lonnie Mayne exploded into a bloody feud in the Pacific Northwest ... An international tournament in Cologne, West Germany, featured such stars as The Zebra Kid, Frank Valois, Dave Morgan, and Billy Robinson, who won the event ... Man Mountain Mike was the winner of an 11-man battle royal in Kansas City . . . AWA World champion Verne Gagne kept his title on a disqualification while losing to The Avenger ... Victor Rivera was honored as the WWF Rookie of the Year, topping Spiros Arion and Bull Ramos. Wrestling insiders were touting the acrobatic Rivera as a future superstar . . . NWA World champion Gene Kiniski battled Fritz Von Erich in a series of brutal non-title Texas death matches in Dallas ... NWA RATINGS: 1-Gene Kiniski: 2-Fritz Von Erich: 3-Eddie Graham; 4-The Sheik; 5-Johnny Valentine; 6-John Paul Hennig; 7-Ernie Ladd; 8-Bob Ellis; 9—Pat O'Connor; 10—Bob Geigel, AWA RATINGS: 1-Verne Year over Spiros Arion and Bull Ramos.



Bruno Sammartino's schedule in 1968 included WWF title defenses against Rocky Mountain champion Rocky Fitzpatrick, who was no match for "The Living Legend."

Gagne; 2—Bruiser; 3—Crusher; 4—Harley Race; 5—Blackjack Lanza; 6—Bill Watts; 7—Mighty Igor; 8-Mad Dog Vachon; 9-Reg Parks; 10-Doug Gilbert. WWF RATINGS: 1-Bruno Sammartino; 2-Gorilla Monsoon; 3-Toru Tanaka; 4—George Steele; 5—Edouard Carpentier; 6—Spiros Arion; 7-Hans Mortier; 8-Miquel Perez; 9-Victor Rivera;

10-Bull Ramos. TAG TEAMS: 1-Bruiser & Crusher; 2-Pepper Gomez & Pedro Morales; 3-George Becker & Johnny Weaver: 4-Kenji Shibuya & Haru Sasaki: 5-The Medics; 6-The Assassins; 7-Ole & Gene Anderson; 8-Miguel Perez & Pete Sanchez; 9-George & Sandy Scott; 10-Butcher & Paul Vachon.

(Continued on page 56)



Victor Rivera dropkicks Prof. Toru Tanaka. In 1968, Rivera was chosen WWF Rookie of the



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 The entire May 6, 1984, bout in which Kerry Von Erich captured the NWA World title from Ric Flair at Texas Stadium in front of 43,518 fans.

 Highlights of Mike Von Erich's November 24, 1983, debut match against Gen. Skandor Akbar, and a battle against John Tatum.

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RESTLER OF THE MONTH

THE ROAD WARRIORS

THE ROAD WARRIORS ran The Powers of Pain out of the NWA, It's that simple. The Warlord and The Barbarian are now wrestling in the WWF because Hawk and Animal were just too tough for them.

Chalk up another one for The Legion of Doom.

The Warriors-Powers feud dates back to late 1987, when Paul Jones, the Powers' manager, began boasting that his men were the strongest twosome in wrestling. Jones knew that he had the perfect ploy: The Warriors' egos wouldn't let them pass up the challenge. He knew the Warriors, intent on proving their physical superiority, would be placed off-guard psychologically, leaving themselves prey to any underhanded trick.

The time for tricks came in January, during a weightlifting competition set up by Jones. No sooner had Animal taken his place on the weight bench than the Powers, Jones, and Ivan Koloff commenced the attack. Animal suffered a severe eye injury that forced him to wear a

mask for several weeks.

Though he had proved nothing but his own cowardice, Jones was jubilant. Paul Ellering, on the other hand, was

left to plot a strategy of revenge.

In the months leading up to The Great American Bash, the four behemoths clashed repeatedly in everything from traditional tag team bouts to ultra-violent ladder matches. The results of the feud itself, however, were inconclusive. Both sides were claiming victory, when in fact no clear victory had been won.

When it came time for the Bashes, NWA promoters signed a series of scaffold matches between the teams. It

seemed to be the only way to settle the war.

Then something strange happened. Warlord and Barbarian lost their nerve. They confided to NWA insiders that they were afraid to climb 20 feet in the air for fear of falling and being seriously injured—perhaps even killed. Without even telling Jones (who learned the news through a prematch telegram), Warlord and Barbarian left town hours before a scheduled match. Days later, they turned up in the WWF as compatriots of Strike Force.

By now, everyone believes that the Powers left the NWA solely because they were afraid of heights. But it is agreed by many NWA observers and competitors that they were, in fact, more afraid of the Warriors themselves. Warlord and Barbarian may have a slight edge in size and strength, but nobody—nobody!—can match Hawk and Animal's intensity. And that's what the Powers were really afraid of. Jones may have taught them how to fight mean, but he couldn't teach them how to be mean.

"The Powers may think they're tough," Hawk said, "but me and Animal have given tough a new meaning. They know they're not stronger than us, they're not any tougher than us. That's why they're gone. The stinkin' wimps!" "I always knew the Powers didn't have it in 'em," Animal said. "They don't want any more of us. Let them go after those other bums."

Those "bums" to which Animal refers are Demolition, the WWF World tag team champions who already have lost several non-title matches to Warlord and Barbarian. They were able to get matches with the champions so easily because of their association with Strike Force. When Rick Martel was injured by Demolition, Tito Santana turned to Warlord and Barbarian for help. No one knew whether Strike Force had anything to do with the Powers' leaving the NWA, but even more odd is the fact that Warlord and Barbarian would ally themselves with a fan favorite team like Martel and Santana. But that doesn't concern Animal.

"If they beat Demolition so many times, what does that say about Demolition?" Animal asked. "It means they're not the great team a lot of people thought they were. You've even got them rated ahead of us in your damn magazine. I think you owe us an apology, and a new rating."

Well, Animal will not get an apology, but if he checks this month's ratings, he will see some changes.

The Road Warriors have, in fact, been at or near the top of the tag team ratings since their debut five years ago. They have taken on the best and beaten them all. None of their opponents, though, were more formidable than Warlord and Barbarian. Driving them out of the NWA is certainly worthy of this issue's Wrestler of the Month honors.

And in light of that honor, Hawk deserves special mention for his actions following the Tower of Doom match at the July 10 Great American Bash in Baltimore. When Precious was trapped in the bottom cage with Kevin Sullivan, Hawk volunteered to help Jim Garvin rescue her. Together, they climbed the ladder to the top of the third cage, went down through the top, and managed a successful rescue. While Garvin ushered Precious to safety, Hawk demolished Sullivan.

"That was easy," Hawk shrugged. "Jimmy needed help and I gave it to him. I hate that dweeb Sullivan! It was a pleasure to try and rip his head off. I'd like to get a match against those Varsity Club geeks of his."

And yet another accomplishment for the Warriors this month: On July 9 in Chicago, Hawk, Animal, and Dusty Rhodes regained the NWA six-man tag team belts by defeating Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, and Tully Blanchard for the vacant title.

Elimination of a duo of bitter enemies, an honorable rescue of a woman in horrible distress, and the recapturing of a championship. Not a bad month for the Warriors!



POINT/COUNTERPOINT

POINT

Officials were right to stop the Lex Luger-Ric Flair title match at the July 10 Great American Bash.



Sting and Steve Williams hold back an incensed Lex Luger, whose NWA World title victory over Ric Flair turned to defeat when the Maryland State Athletic Commission stopped the bout because of a cut on Luger's head. Senior Editor Bill Apter agreed with the Commission's decision.

By Bill Apter

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING IS a dangerous sport. I don't think anybody will deny that, especially the men who put their bodies on the line every time they step into the ring. Of course, there's an implied risk that these great athletes accept, but that risk doesn't include death or permanent injury.

When people talk about how violent wrestling is, I'm proud to respond that, unlike boxing, which sees at least one or two ring deaths a year, it's extremely rare that a wrestler dies in the ring. You'll often see wrestlers bleeding during matches, but there are doctors at ringside making sure that these injuries aren't life threatening.

I bring this up because of the controversy that arose during the Lex Luger-Ric Flair NWA World title match at the Great American Bash on July 10 in Baltimore. With 22 minutes gone in the match, J.J. Dillon grabbed a dazed Luger outside the ring and slammed his head into the ringpost.

Luger began bleeding, but returned to the ring and somehow summoned up the energy to put Flair into a punishing backbreaker. Flair appeared to be on the verge of submitting (although I don't think he would have) when referee Tommy Young called for the bell. Most people in the arena thought Flair had submitted, but an official from the Maryland State Athletic Commission had ordered Young to stop the bout because of Luger's cut.

Naturally, the crowd booed and Luger argued with the referee. But the rules of the Maryland State Athletic Commission are clear: a bout must be stopped immediately at the first sign of blood. This rule exists to protect the wrestlers, who in most cases would continue wrestling no matter what their condition. And if you ask me, Lex should have walked over to attending physican James Corkum, shook his hand, and said, "Thank you, Mr. Corkum. Thank you for caring about me."

There will be other chances for Luger. He's young, talented, and extremely determined. But most important, he's alive and healthy.

There are two sides to every story, and nowhere is that more true than in professional wrestling. Each month, two of the world's most respected mat journalists will debate an important issue concerning the sport, facing off for an exchange of ideas, leaving the final decision up to you!

COUNTERPOINT

Officials should not have stopped the Lex Luger-Ric Flair title match at the July 10 Great American Bash.



Luger has Flair up in a backbreaker while, in the background, the commissioner is telling referee Tommy Young to stop the match. This ruling was ridiculous, writes Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum, because wrestlers who have bled a lot more than Luger did have been allowed to continue in their matches.

By Dave Rosenbaum

OR MORE THAN 22 minutes on July 10 in Baltimore, Lex Luger fought the match of his life. All of the criticisms of "The Total Package"—that he didn't have the experience, the ability, or the stamina to achieve greatness—were being proven wrong in front of a sellout crowd at the Baltimore Arena and a national pay-per-view audience.

Although blood was trickling down Luger's forehead, he had Ric Flair in a punishing backbreaker. The champion, already worn down by the angry, determined Luger, was virtually helpless. Luger was hurt, but strong. He was on the verge of winning the NWA World championship. But suddenly, the bell rang and two officials from the Maryland State Athletic Commission took away Luger's chance for glory.

I don't believe that Flair would have ever submitted to the backbreaker, even if it meant lying in traction in a hospital for several months. And I don't believe that Luger would have eventually pinned Flair. He had several chances earlier in the match, but lacked the skill to put away a great wrestler like Flair. Luger will never pin Ric Flair. But he deserved the chance.

Sure, Luger was hurt, but only because J.J. Dillon illegally slammed his head into the ringpost. The match should have been stopped right there and Flair should have been disqualified (and, if the rules of wrestling made any sense, Luger should have been given the belt). But even after getting hurt, Luger rallied to nearly put away Flair.

He looked fine to the 15,000 fans in Baltimore Arena. He looked fine to me. He looked no worse than thousands of other wrestlers who have bled in the ring. Has attending physican James Corkum ever seen Dusty Rhodes or Abdullah the Butcher bleed during a match? By comparison, Luger had a tiny cut.

Television announcer Jim Ross explained that the Maryland State Athletic Commission has very strict rules, but this was ridiculous. Wrestling is a sport for men who can withstand pain and punishment. Luger's health was in no danger when the match was stopped. That it was stopped is nothing less than a ripoff.

SPORTS REVIEW

TERRY TAYLOR

HERE IS TERRY Taylor today? He's in the NWA. No, he's in Memphis—but that was only for a few weeks. He's the World Class Texas champion. No, he's not . . . now he's in the WWF!

Taylor may be one of the most traveled wrestlers currently competing, but he's certainly no journeyman. Everywhere he has gone, this 6'1", 225pounder has somehow managed to garner more than his fair share of titles, but that doesn't mean the fans appreciate his efforts. Early in his career, Taylor utilized his speed and scientific abilities to win matches, but during the last year the attitude of this handsome young competitor has undergone a drastic change. Once loved by the majority of the fans, Taylor has become a ruthless battler who aims to emerge victorious at any cost.

It wasn't all that long ago that Taylor decided to turn his back on his supporters. His change stemmed from his incredibly violent battles with Chris Adams, his former UWF tag team championship partner during the spring of 1987. Adams accused Taylor of kicking his foot off the bottom rope during a title match, causing the team to lose the tag team belts. Taylor challenged Adams to a straight scientific match, but ended up piledriving Adams on the concrete floor outside the ring. A war had begun, and fans rallied behind Adams in his efforts against Taylor, a man they supported for years. Taylor responded by trying to drive Adams from the sport forever.



Terry Taylor, who has won championships in the UWF and World Class areas, will now try his luck in the WWF. He says he is willing to hurt a few people to get a shot at Randy Savage's WWF World title.

Taylor and Adams wreaked havoc for months throughout the UWF, but their war was just beginning. When Adams moved to World Class early this year, Taylor soon followed, vowing to run his foe from Texas. Taylor resorted to heinous new lows during the resumption of these battles, breaking Adams' left hand with a piledriver the first time he saw him in an arena.

Later, Adams claimed that Taylor hired Mike George to break his nose with a vicious dropkick. Taylor vehemently denies the charge, but was happy to see Adams suffer—a typical example of his sadistic attitude.

Assistant Editor Bob Smith caught up with the always-transient Taylor for an exclusive interview days before his scheduled debut in the WWF.

- Q: Terry, I'd need wings to keep up with you. In the last few weeks, you've been all over the country, but I was shocked to find out that you'd forfeited your Texas title to Kevin Von Erich at the big Sportatorium card in Dallas on July 4. They said you had injured yourself in a match against Kevin the night before, but you seem okay to me. Why would you do a thing like that?
- A: Everybody knows I couldn't get a fair shake in Texas. Kevin Von Erich is a desperate man. He knew he never could beat me. I had no one to watch my back. Who needs World Class? Who needs the Texas title? I've got much bigger things in store for me.
- Q: You must *really* think you've got big things ahead to just abandon an important title like that. But that's no surprise the way you've abandoned your fans over the course of the last couple of years.
- A: I never said I wanted to be loved by the fans. I can't go back and change what I've already done. I've lost titles by being cheated and I didn't like it at all. That's one reason I left the NWA. When [Nikita] Koloff defeated me for the TV title back at Starrcade '87. I never once got a rematch. They stuck me way down at the bottom of the cards, wrestling preliminary bums. I didn't feel like I should have had to work my way up the ladder again. I lost one lousy unification match after holding the belt for four months. That's not what I wanted at all.
- Q: There are many in this business who think that you have absolutely no idea what you want anymore. A couple of weeks ago, you were battling Jerry Lawler for the AWA World title, and you came close to winning it. Now, out of nowhere, you say you're going to the WWF. A lot of people think you're really screwed up.
- A: I think a lot of people have got their *own* lives screwed up. They can't straighten their own lives out,



Taylor stomps on Chris Adams (above), who is wearing a catcher's mask because Mike George broke his nose—possibly at Taylor's request. Taylor throws Shane Douglas toward the seats (below); he beat Douglas for the now-defunct UWF TV title.



so they have no business telling me how to run my life or my career. Whatever I do is my business. I've been wrestling for over eight years, and even though I'm not the biggest guy in the world, I've been a champion for over half my professional career, be it singles or tag teams. Most guys can't say that. As far as the fans go, the ones that like me are gonna like me regardless of what I do. The ones that don't, well, I just don't have any use for 'em.

- Q: It seems like you don't have much need for the rulebook anymore, either. It's clear to anybody that saw you win the Texas title from Matt Borne back in February that you pulled his tights to get the pinfall.
- A: Hey, when you're in professional wrestling, it's just like a war, okay? If I can get away with pulling the tights to win a title, I'd be a fool not to do it. Borne would be a fool not to do it, too. You mean to tell me that after all your years

- of watching Matt Borne wrestle you've never seen him throw a punch or pull tights? Come on! It's better to give than to receive, and it's *much* better to do it first.
- Q: But why just walk away from your Texas belt?
- A: Well, I did everything there was to do in World Class. I beat both the Von Erichs.
- Q: What? I've never seen that! I get to see all the World Class tapes, and I've never even seen you come close to beating either one of them.
- A: Of course, it wasn't televised! That's because the promoters don't want to see their darling boys get beaten. The WWF is the best organization going right now. I've gone as far as I can go in World Class, so if I go to the WWF, I know I can do well. I've competed in all the other major groups, and now it's time to move on.
- Q: Knowing you, you'll have your sights set on Randy Savage's WWF World title. What do you think of

- the "Macho Man" as a champion?
- A: I wrestled Savage about four years ago in Memphis. He was pretty good then, and to be honest with you, he beat me. But that was only because his father, Angelo Poffo, was at ringside distracting me and interfering. Now, I think that on any given night anybody can be beaten, and I think I definitely have what it takes to win that belt. I may not win in the most popular ways, but I always find a way to do it. That's probably why a lot of people don't like me. I don't care. I can beat Savage.
- Q: How about The Honky Tonk Man's Intercontinental title? A lot of people think he's ripe for the picking right about now.
- A: He's been very good as far as hanging on to the belt, but his won-loss record isn't very good because of all the interference by his manager, Jimmy Hart. It's almost a tag team belt, really. As far as (Continued on page 50)



Taylor watches Adams drop to the mat. Once good friends, they have fought extensively in the UWF and World Class. Taylor says he becomes overcome with hatred whenever Adams is around.

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 Topples Andre At WrestleMania III!"

May 1988 Sports Review Wrestling—
"Special Section: The Andre-Hogan
Feud—A Pictorial History!"

July 1988 Pro Wrestling Illustrated—
 ''I've Been In A Dreamworld And Andre Is My Worst Nightmare!'' An exclusive "Press Conference" with Hulk Hogan

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WRESTLING'S HOT YOUNG LIONS!

RESTLING, UNLIKE many other sports, is a game without an off-season. The year-long grind of match after match takes its toll; it's wrestling's way of weeding out those who aren't up to the rigorous challenges. Those who survive the mat sport's baptism of fire, who continue to win matches and titles after their first few years as pros, are the ones who establish themselves as hot prospects. The raw rookies who blossom into full-fledged wrestling stars are the men who hold the future of wrestling in the palms of their hands.

On the pages that follow are

seven examples of such men. These are the competitors who have the veterans looking over their shoulders in fear. These are the warriors who are changing the very complexion of the sport. These are the men who are wrestling's new stock of champions.

While superstars such as Harley Race, Bruno Sammartino, Nick Bockwinkel, and Rick Steamboat have retired during the past 18 months, promoters and matchmakers need not worry. The fans are already packing the arenas to see a new crop of accomplished young titans.

The power of Lex Luger and

The Ultimate Warrior. The wily tag team skills of Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond. The scientific maneuvers of Owen Hart and Jeff Jarrett. The incredible wealth of talents of Bam Bam Bigelow and Sting. Sports Review Wrestling now presents this special section spotlighting the young men who have already made their mark on the mat world—and will make many, many more before they're through.

This is more than a look at today's best new stars. It's a comprehensive view of the men whose awesome talents and skills will bring wrestling into the 1990s—and beyond!

The champions of the NWA, WWF, and AWA had best be prepared. There are incredibly talented new stars that are establishing themselves as worthy contenders for any title in the wrestling world. These are the wrestlers who will bring the sport to new heights of excitement in the years ahead!



LEX LUGER

Lex Luger is one of those once-in-a-lifetime athletes, a man who might well win a *dozen* major titles before he's done. When he burst upon the scene in 1986, his then-adviser Bob Roop proclaimed a "five-year plan" for Luger's ascension to the top. But it's a sure bet that "The Total Package" will have progressed a lot further than expected by 1991. Count on it!



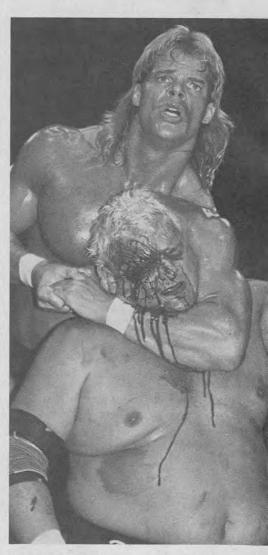
"The Total Package" bearhugs Wahoo Mc-Daniel (above), whom he beat for the Southern title in his rookie year. Luger gets Tully Blanchard up in a backbreaker (right).







Luger whips Road Warrior Hawk across the ring (left). As a member of The Four Horsemen, Luger frequently teamed with Ric Flair to battle the Warriors.



Luger avoids Blanchard's grasp to make the tag to Barry Windham (left); together they won the NWA World tag team title, but now Barry's a Horseman. Lex clamps a powerful chinlock on Dusty Rhodes (above), the man who beat him for the U.S. title.

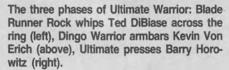


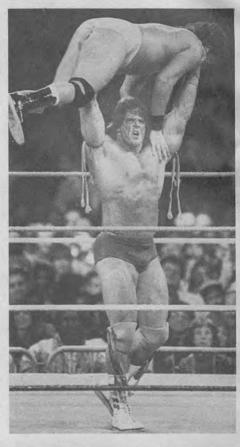
THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

Once Sting's partner in The Blade Runners (he was then known as Rock), The Ultimate Warrior has a chiseled physique that is almost inhuman. He is powerful enough to overcome even the craftiest opponent. His maniacal desire to win should be enough to carry him to the top of the WWF, but a more thorough schooling in the science of the sport would make the Warrior truly the ultimate.













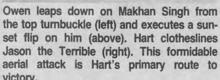
Warrior hammers Hercules against the turnbuckle at WrestleMania IV (left). He chokes Demolition Ax with a chain during an anything-goes battle royal (above).

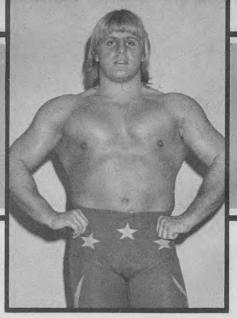
OWEN HART

The youngest of the talented Canadian Hart brothers, Owen may be the best of a bunch that also includes WWF standout Bret. Only in his third year as a pro, Owen dominates the competition of Stampede Wrestling and is already a big star in Japan. It won't be long before wrestling fans *everywhere* are privileged to witness the sensational repertoire of this superbly talented youngster.

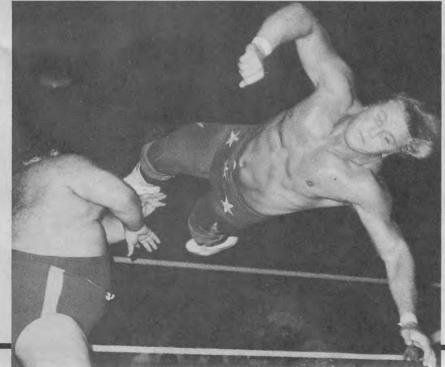














Hart dropkicks Singh (left) and suplexes Jason (above). There is a possibility that Owen will soon team with his brother Bret, though The Hart Foundation is still going strong.



JEFF JARRETT

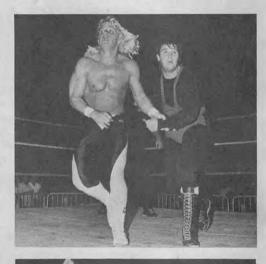
The CWA in Memphis has been a breeding ground for many of the sport's top stars. From that tradition springs Jeff Jarrett, a young man who confirms the truism that talent and desire may often overcome a lack of size. The son of Memphis promoter Jerry Jarrett, Jeff grew up watching great wrestlers like Jerry Lawler, whom he hopes to emulate by also winning a world title someday. So far, he's on the right path.



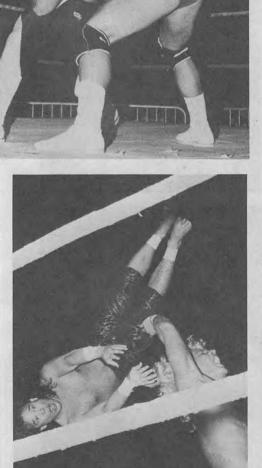
Hennig was AWA World champion, Jarrett posed a major threat to his title.



Jarrett backflips Pat Tanaka (left), slams Jimmy Golden (above), is whipped across the ring by Doug Gilbert (top right), and dropkicks Gilbert (right). While he's smaller than most of his opponents, Jarrett has a winning record, proof of his ability.







STING

Though he possesses all the tools for wrestling greatness. Sting did not begin to blossom fully until he dumped his manager Eddie Gilbert and embraced the rulebook and began hearing the cheers of the fans. This sensational, charismatic athlete has come extremely close to winning Ric Flair's NWA World championship several times, and there will certainly be many more opportunities to come. A future world championship seems a virtual certainty for this amazing athlete.



Sting goes airborne on Sam Houston (above), who was a frequent opponent during Sting's rulebreaking days. "The Stinger" press-slams his former tag team partner Rick Steiner (below); together they won the UWF tag belts.









Sting backflips Mike Rotundo (left) and rolls Ric Flair into the scorpion leglock (above); Sting is a top contender to Flair's NWA World title. "The Stinger" armbars his former manager Eddie Gilbert (below).





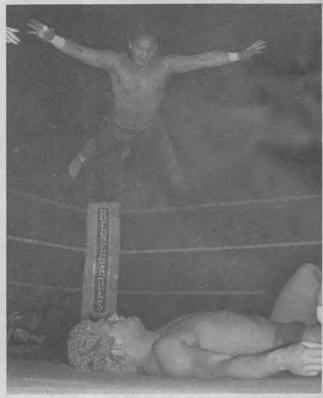


BAD COMPANY

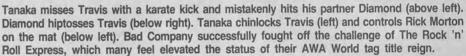
AWA World tag team champions Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond—Bad Company—are good enough to rely on their skills, but bad enough to break the rules. They're just as prone to sucker-punch a foe as they are to dazzle him with science. Winning the World belts within just a few weeks of entering the AWA has made Tanaka and Diamond confident to the point of being arrogant. Who can blame them?

Tanaka leaps off the top rope onto Billy Joe Travis (right), who's unable to roll out of the way of the move.











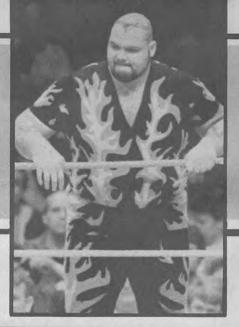


BAM BAM BIGELOW

How many 360-pound men can execute aerial maneuvers as skillfully as a 200-pounder? Bam Bam Bigelow can, and there aren't too many others like him. Bigelow is a rarity: a behemoth who respects the most intricate elements of the sport's science. His WWF World title quest may have been hampered when fellow fan favorite Randy Savage won the belt, but don't give up on Bigelow yet; he's a sure future champion.



Bigelow presses Virgil overhead (left) and fights off a Demolition double-team (below). Bigelow has the reputation of being an absolutely fearless competitor.



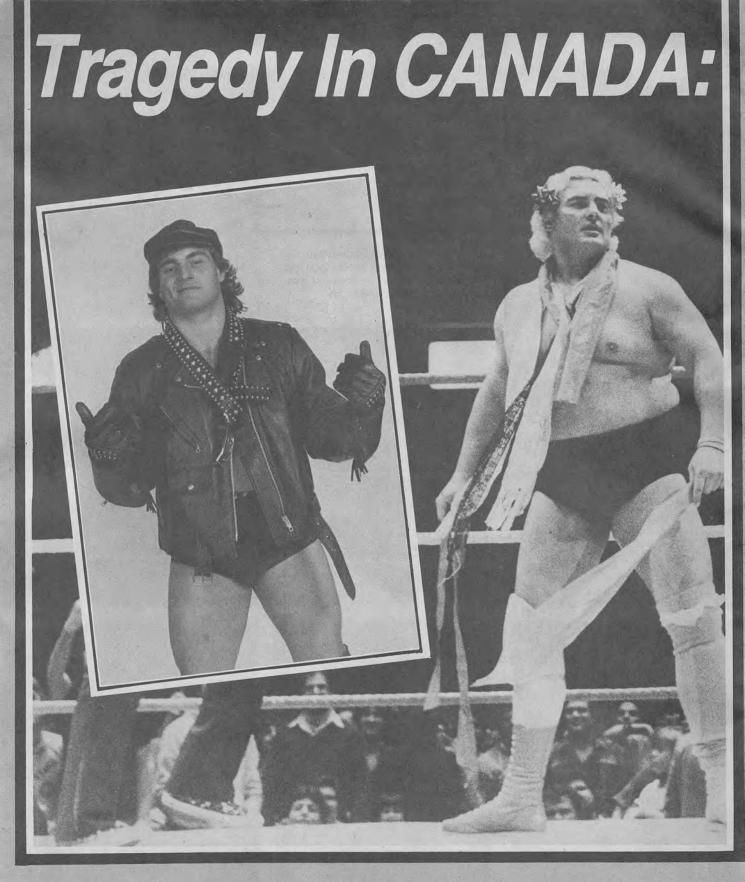








Bigelow executes his finishing maneuver, the over-the-top-rope vault, on Iron Mike Sharpe (above left). Bam Bam armbars Tony Atlas (above center), and runs Ted DiBiase into the turnbuckle (above right).



foundland, claimed the lives of pro crash. wrestlers Adrian Adonis, Pat Kelly, and "Wildman" David McKigney. tured leg, told the Royal Canadian The accident was caused when Kel- Mounted Police that the four wresly drove his mini-van onto the tlers were headed westbound to

N JULY 4, a tragic automobile shoulder to avoid a moose, accordaccident in Lewisporte, New- ing to the only survivor of the

Mike Kelly, who suffered a frac-

Lewisporte on the Trans Canada highway at 9:30 p.m. when a moose came up onto the road.

"It's common that moose come onto the roads in this area," said RCMP Sgt. MacKinnon, who described the area where the accident

ADRIAN ADONIS, TWO OTHERS, DIE IN AUTO CRASH



Once a streetwise tough guy (opposite inset), Adrian Adonis had changed his image drastically in recent years (opposite page). In 1986, he hosted the "Flower Shop" (above).

occurred as a flat stretch of road and the driving conditions as "ideal." Because Newfoundland is on double daylight savings time (clocks are set forward two hours each spring rather than one hour), it was still light out when the accident occurred.

The van, which was driven by Mike's brother Pat Kelly, crossed the eastbound lane and drove along the shoulder for 300 to 400 feet. Pat tried to get back onto the road, but another car was approaching eastbound. The van missed a bridge that crossed a 10-foot wide brook, struck a rock, and threw the three passengers out the front of the van.

"They were thrown from the vehicle, but no great distance," said

MacKinnon. "McKigney went through the windshield and was dead at the scene. Mr. Adonis was sitting in the back seat and he was flung over them and out through the front of the vehicle. When we got there, Mr. Adonis' body was about three feet from the vehicle and about a foot in the brook. He was alive, but he was in bad shape. We took him to the hospital about 24 miles away, but they couldn't help him."

Adonis, who suffered a broken back and fractured skull, died three hours after the accident occurred. Pat Kelly was found dead and hanging out of the van. Mike Kelly was still in St. John's hospital at press time and reported in good

condition. The Kelly twins are best known in Canada for an Oh Henry! candy bar commercial they did last year with wrestler Jos LeDuc.

According to MacKinnon, Pat Kelly was driving with a blood-alcohol level of .06 percent; Canada's legal limit (to determine drunk driving violations) is .08 percent (the legal limit in the United States is .1 percent). "It was determined by the blood alcohol test that alcohol was not a factor," said MacKinnon. At press time, police were awaiting the results of drug tests on Kelly. None of the passengers were wearing seat belts. There is a seat belt law in Canada.

The four wrestlers were on their way to a Canadian-American Fourth of July celebration in Lewisporte, a small village located 24 miles from Gander. They were scheduled to wrestle the following evening in Lewisporte on a Big Bear Sports Promotions card.

Adonis, 34, was born in New York City. Although he was always considered a fine wrestler, he didn't get his big break until he came to the AWA in 1980 and formed the East-West Connection with Jesse Ventura. Ventura and Adonis were awarded the AWA World tag team belts by default on July 20, 1980, and held them until June 14, 1981, when they lost to Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell.

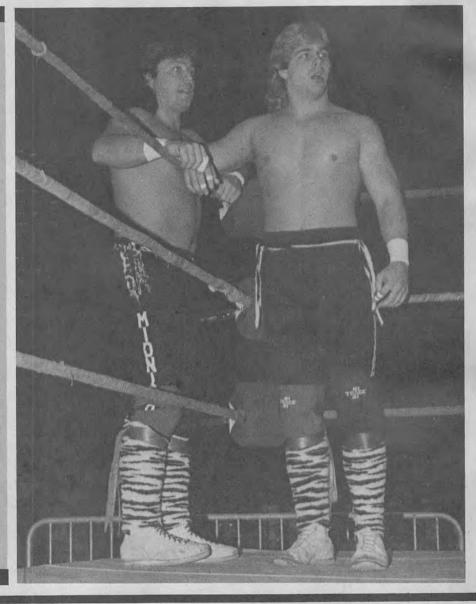
Adonis is probably best known for his work in the WWF, where he and Dick Murdoch were World tag team champions from April 1984 through January 1985. Adonis, however, had always had problems controlling his weight. In 1986, his weight having ballooned to 312 pounds, this streetwise tough guy bleached his hair, started wearing pink ribbons and dresses, and took on a gay image. His "Flower Shop" segment was a regular feature on the WWF's TV shows. Adonis came to the AWA last year and left in early 1988.

He is survived by his wife, Bea, and two daughters. \Box

ARE THE

MIDNIGHT ROCKERS TOO SMALL FOR THE WWF?

In a federation where bigger usually means better, will the relatively tiny **Midnight Rockers** be crushed before they hit their stride? Or will their drive and determination be enough to overcome the size and power of bruisers like **Demolition and** The Powers of Pain?



MIDNIGHT ROCKERS MARTY JANNETTY: 5'10", 230 POUNDS SHAWN MICHAELS: 6'0", 220 POUNDS

THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS are not small. If you bumped into Marty Jannetty at a bar, you would certainly apologize and hope he wouldn't separate your nose from its resting place. He wouldn't; he's a nice guy.

In the WWF, however, where there is a premium placed on size and muscle, the Rockers are not big. When compared with Demolition (the current WWF tag team champions) and The Powers of Pain (Demolition's leading contenders), Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty simply don't measure up.

Outsized by as much as seven inches in height and 140 pounds of muscle (compare the stats for Michaels and Warlord), the Rockers, whose well-chronicled travels have taken them around the world. may have found themselves in a place that's way over their heads.

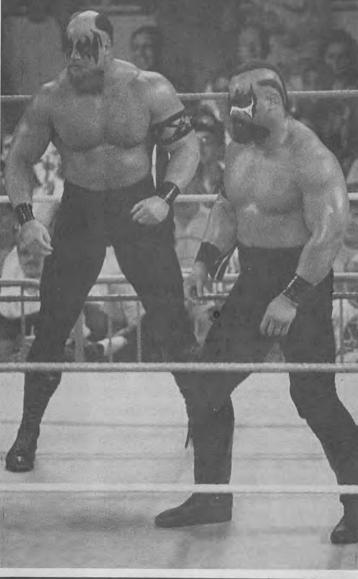
"I don't know who these kids think they're kidding," says Editorin-Chief Stu Saks. "A team the size of the Rockers can succeed in the other federations, but not in the WWF. In the NWA you have The Fantastics, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, The Midnight Express, Tully

Blanchard and Arn Anderson-all of them in the six-foot, 235-pound range. The Rockers would flourish there. Their speed and finesse would be emphasized. But the WWF is a power federation. It's a whole different ballgame."

The Rockers are not discouraged. Every battle, especially the battle to gain respect, has been difficult for Jannetty and Michaels. Wrestling now in the WWF, surrounded again by doubt and controversy, the team feels right at home. They have pointed to this day since they

(Continued on page 52)





DEMOLITION SMASH: 6'1", 282 POUNDS AX: 6'2", 303 POUNDS

POWERS OF PAIN BARBARIAN: 6'5", 295 POUNDS WARLORD: 6'5", 360 POUNDS

HE IS THE hottest property in professional wrestling. After training for three relentless weeks with him (which ultimately led to their 1988 Crockett Cup victory), Lex Luger was overheard to say, "Kryptonite is the only thing that can slow this boy down." NWA World champion Ric Flair has hailed him as the "inevitable successor to my throne."

Yet Sting intends to exceed the promise of his press clippings. "I want to be remembered as someone who lived up to his potential," he says modestly. "I think I can go a long way in this sport."

If Sting is accused of having a good attitude, it is not without reason. Most young athletes suddenly encumbered with huge amounts of money and fame become spoiled, irritating prima donnas. They refuse interviews and avoid fans, suddenly forgetting who made them rich and successful in the first place. Sting can be found signing autographs hours after his match ends. And it was Sting who contacted Sports Review Wrestling Senior Editor Bill Apter with the idea for this story.

"Sting told me he felt bad that he didn't have the time to answer all of his fan mail," Apter said. "He wanted to address this problem and asked if we could help."

Sting forwarded his fan mail (now arriving at a rate of about 1,200 letters a week) and Sports Review Wrestling's crack secretarial team underwent the arduous task of calculating the 10 most popular questions. Sting spent more than four hours hunched over a word processor to answer them. "If every wrestler was like Sting, our job would be a piece of cake," commented Apter.

We are honored to print Sting's replies to your questions.

STING ANSWERS YOUR 10 MOST Personal Questions 200



Why did you decide to become a wrestler?

I never decided to become a wrestler—it was decided for me. I've always been a very aggressive, physical person. Growing up in Venice Beach, California, I spent a lot of time in "passive" sports like swimming and surfing.

was it for

Whose idea was it for you to wear makeup?

It was mine. Matches are won on strength, ring knowledge, technique, and psychology. Physically, I feel I'm the equal of any man in the sport. My knowledge of the sport increases every day. I feel the makeup gives me the edge

working out on Venice Beach. They were my earliest inspiration to build up my body. I also admire Magic Johnson. He is probably my favorite athlete.



What is your personal and professional philosophy toward life?

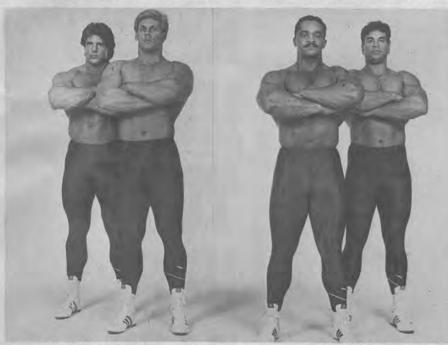
Actually, the two rather compliment each other. I feel it's my duty to make the world safe from jerks. You know the type I mean. The guy who knocks into you and doesn't apologize. The loudmouthed lady who pushes to the front of the line. The rulebreaker who'll use a foreign object to gain a victory. The world would be a better place if these people could be taught respect and proper manners. Now, I'm not about to clamp the Scorpion leglock on the guy who shoves me in the popcorn line at the movies. But I will let him know-in a way he won't soon forget-that it pays to be polite.



Describe your training schedule. That would take the entire article. My training regimen is very com(Continued on page 54)



Sting's training regimen includes extensive workouts on weightlifting equipment like the shoulder-press machine.



Sting (second from left) got into wrestling as a member of Powerteam U.S.A. The gentleman to his right is none other than The Ultimate Warrior!

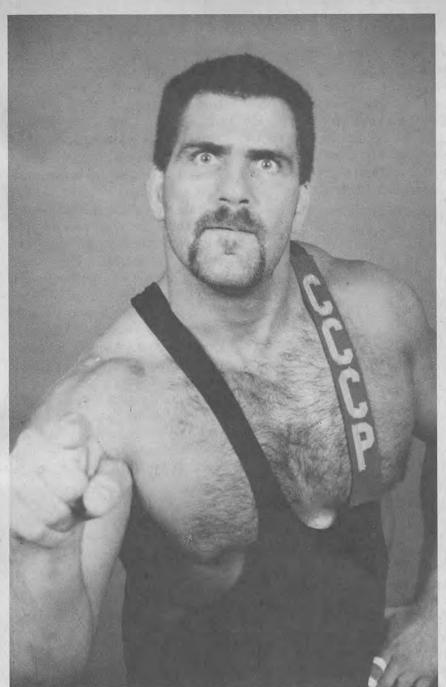
In school I played every sport I could: football, basketball, wrestling, track; I even tried tennis one semester. Though I enjoyed collegiate-style wrestling most of all, it still didn't permit the creativity I associated with other sports. I played basketball in junior college and I missed the freedom of movement you experienced on the court. I had begun lifting weights seriously, hoping to qualify for the Mr. U.S.A. bodybuilding competition, when Rick Bassman [founder of Powerteam U.S.A.] saw me training at Gold's Gym. He sold me on professional wrestling. He said it was the one sport that would utilize all my athletic ability. And he was right. This is the toughest sport in the world.

psychologically. Opponents make a big deal about it; it distracts them. The makeup is nothing but colored paint. It doesn't make me stronger or tougher, does it? Maybe it does. I like the idea of changing my appearance. All the great superheroes did it, though I'm not likely to leap tall buildings because I dab on a little paint. The makeup is just another part of the arsenal.

Ш

Who were some of your early role models?

Among wrestlers, I've always admired The Road Warriors. As I travel to gyms around the country, I learn what legends they really are. But my real role models were the bodybuilders I used to watch



For His Own Good ... RIKTTA KOLOFF MUST TURN HIS BACK ON AMERICA

At one point, Nikita Koloff was the most hated wrestler in the world, largely because of his Soviet background. He was also seen as the man most likely to win the NWA World title from Ric Flair. Today, Koloff loves the United States, but the new Nikita seems to have lost something

TIKITA KOLOFF, ONCE a loyal federation. citizen of the Soviet Union, has become an American. He lives in a spacious, comfortable American home. He drives a fine American automobile. He enjoys American of the most recognizable stars of the NWA, an America-based wrestling

After years of embracing the communist ideology of his native country, Koloff is a prime example of what can happen to those from other lands who venture to the United television and music. And he is one States in quest of fame and fortune.

Nikita Koloff is getting soft.

And for the sake of his career, he

must turn away from America. That's an odd statement for an American wrestling magazine to make, but if Koloff is ever going to regain his former promise of greatness, he must turn his back on his adopted

Koloff, who once embraced rigid Soviet training techniques,

waves the American flag with the fervor of a native. Yet his career slips further with each salute to Old Glory. Only two years after exploding on the American wrestling scene like no other Russian before him, Koloff has forgotten his potential. He has lost a significant amount of his onceawesome musculature, adopting a more streamlined look and ring style. He may be a bit lighter and

quicker, but is he better?

"I am much better wrestler now than ever," said Koloff in his rapidly improving English. "I am quicker and I have more stamina thanks to new training. I am not as bulky anymore. I am happier with the way things are now. I love my adopted country."

Not everyone agrees.

"The top contenders for my belt

are Sting, Steve Williams, and Lex Luger," claims Ric Flair, the seemingly eternal NWA World champion. "Nikita Koloff? What is this, 1986? Koloff is yesterday's news. I have *much* more important things to worry about."

Despite Flair's claims, Koloff is still a formidable wrestler, solidly ensconced in the NWA top 10. He is a worthy tag team partner to men like Dusty Rhodes, Steve Williams, and Sting. While Koloff offers aid to "The American Dream" and other fan favorites, however, he has lost sight of his own dreams. Koloff rarely mentions the World title these days. He seems happier just to be part of the American way of life.

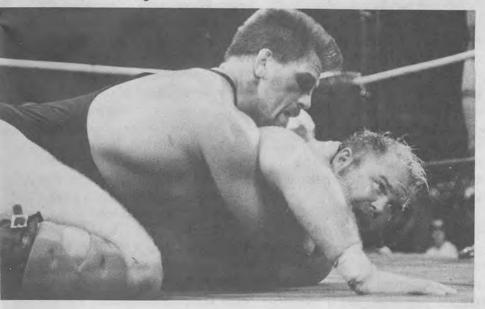


And that may be his biggest problem. In 1985 and 1986, Koloff was not quite as benevolent. But he was awesome, the most talented rookie of the decade. He was a solid mountain of a man, capable—and more than willing—to rip anyone apart in quest of excellence and the World title.

During this period, Koloff was trained and advised solely by his uncle Ivan Koloff, the former WWF World champion. It's easy to criticize



Nikita Koloff armbars Tully Blanchard (above) and brings Arn Anderson to the mat (below). Once a feared America-hater, Koloff has now fully embraced this country in defiance of his uncle Ivan Koloff, who pushes him against the ropes (right). Has his love of the U.S. cost him victories in the ring?





Nikita drags Blanchard back into the ring (above). Al Perez chinlocks Koloff (below left) and pushes a boot into his head (below right). Those who think Nikita has gone soft say his physique is not as impressive as it once was.







Ivan's heinous Soviet ideals, but it's hard to dispute his results in preparing his nephew for the pro rings. His hours of training in a morbid facility they called "the dungeon" created an incredible wrestling machine, a man capable of defeating anyone. Nikita came within a fraction of a second of winning the NWA title from Flair on numerous occasions.

Then came October 14, 1986, a date that would change Koloff's career forever. Magnum T.A. was seriously injured in an automobile crash, and Koloff shocked the world by rallying to the side of the man from whom he had taken the U.S.

title in a hard-fought summer-long series. Koloff's newfound love for Magnum and his American ideals was the most shocking—yet touching—story of the year. Koloff, who had spent his life worshiping his homeland, now studied the philosophies of Magnum and Rhodes, in addition to those of Washington and Jefferson.

More recently, Nikita has become even more Americanized. After spending a few months away from the ring wars earlier this year, he returned sporting a new, shortcropped hair style and a slimmer physique, thanks mainly to aerobics training—a popular American form of workout that has replaced his old methods of pumping iron. At the same time, many claimed Nikita had lost his competitive fire, the killer instinct that separated him from most other wrestlers. It's as if his Soviet training philosophy has somehow left him forever.

Where Koloff once pounded his foes into submission, he now employs more on-the-mat holds. He is much quicker, but he simply doesn't look as fearsome. That may have been a factor when he was clearly dominated in a series of title matches with Flair a few months back.

Koloff's status has sunk to the point where he is no longer taken seriously by Four Horsemen manager J.J. Dillon. During the July 9 telecast of *World Championship Wrestling* on WTBS—one day before the Great American Bash pay-per-view spectacular in Baltimore—Dillon was discussing the reasons why he thought the event may be viewed by millions.

"It's very easy to understand why," Dillon said. "First of all, Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson will defend the World tag team title against Sting and ... I don't even know who his partner is! It doesn't matter."

Actually, it *does* matter. That partner was Nikita Koloff.

Koloff cannot allow his status to sink any further than this. He must forget Rhodes and remember his own American dream. He needs to return to the training techniques and fearsome attitude—even if they were Soviet-inspired—that made him a superstar. After a year of proving himself as a worthy immigrant to our land, the only person Koloff must now please is himself. To do that, he must remember the teachings of his uncle and his homeland, and that knowledge will help regain the killer instinct he once displayed.

If Koloff defeats Flair for the World title, American fans won't worry about where he learned to do it. They'll be thrilled that the *real* Nikita Koloff finally claimed the biggest prize of his career.

THE VIDEOTAPE EVENT



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- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chiqusa Nagayo

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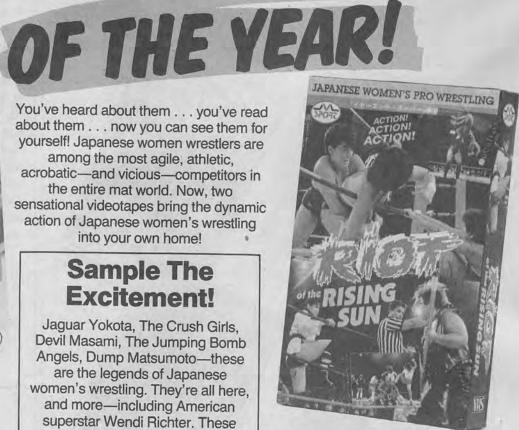
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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 7)

was on a telecast of World Class wrestling!

Also, before the July 10 Great American Bash in Baltimore, NWA announcers were doing a lot of talking about how the main event—an NWA World title match between champion Ric Flair and challenger Lex Luger—was the first time ever that the two men had wrestled. Poppycock! Don't the NWA announcers even read your magazines? Don't they remember when Luger took Flair to the 60-minute time limit in Florida back in his rookie year?

The NWA has lost a lot of credibility in my eyes. I stopped watching the WWF for reasons such as this, and if this type of nonsense continues I'm no longer going to watch the NWA.

ROGER GILBERT Miami

(Continued on page 44)

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 42)

BENOIT'S THE BEST

I've been keeping close tabs on Stampede's Chris Benoit. I think he deserves more credit from *Sports Re*view Wrestling. Here's some history:

Owen Hart, arguably Stampede's best wrestler, lost the Commonwealth title to Gama Singh. Then Singh lost it just say that I was very disappointed. The pictures were great, but it was the *journalism* that left a lot to be desired.

In one example, you have a picture of Arn Anderson grabbing Magnum T.A. (in the final match). You, however, do not have a picture of what happened prior to this: Magnum T.A.



Chris Benoit backflips Cuban Assassin. Reader Neil Townsend thinks that if Owen Hart can be ranked in the Top 10, so can Benoit, the former Stampede champion.

to Benoit who quickly—and unfairly—lost it to Johnny Smith.

Since then, Benoit has regained the title. Month after month, I see Owen Hart in your Top 10 ratings, but never Benoit. Certainly this is a shame, because Benoit is such a better wrestler than current Stampede champ Makhan Singh, who rarely ever wrestles!

Let's see Chris Benoit in the Top 10!

NEIL TOWNSEND Regina, Saskatchewan

CUP RUNNETH UNDER

I have just finished reading your August 1988 issue and the special coverage of the Crockett Cup, and let me reached into the ring and tripped Arn, which precipitated Anderson's reaction.

I assure you that if J.J. Dillon had done what Magnum did, you would have had plenty of pictures chronicling the interference. You're always saying that the Horsemen survive only through J.J.'s help. What about Sting and Lex Luger? Would they have won the Crockett Cup without Magnum's help?

In my opinion, Tully and Arn were the true winners of the 1988 Crockett Cup!

> MARTHA MABE Martinsville, VA

(Continued on page 46)

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September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes

February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.

July 1980/Bruno-Graham, Samoans, Star Wars 1980.

October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II,

January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper

September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.



October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Han-sen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff. November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler. December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each othe

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano,

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel. October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich

November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascara

December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valen-tine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel. February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera

April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans

May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich. June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patter-son, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.

July 1983/Vallant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong. October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno. November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Ka-mala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bock-winkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca. February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich. March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups

on Atlanta and Dallas cards April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff. May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins,

The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly! June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta. July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blan-chard, Brisco, AWA tag tourny.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling. September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card. November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

APR/88 MAY/88 JUNE/88

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December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class. January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Her-nandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school. April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vega June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A, Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor. July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka. August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Ordorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter,
Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.
November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savag December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Mar-tel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces. January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdul-

Jan Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor. February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook. March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Han-sen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase, May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II. July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Posterished, D. III. Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourny. October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourny. January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones. February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook. March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum. April 1987/1986 In Pictures, Kevin Von, Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor, June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history. July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston. August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup. September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourny November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey.

December 1987/Grappling Ghouls,
Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card
January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin,
T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan. February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook. March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko. April 1988/1987 In Pictures, Tully & Am, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton. Am, DiBlass, Kerry, Orton.
May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan,
Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.
June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBlase, Adams, NWA New York invasion. July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior. September 1988/Predictions Through 1998, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 44)

THE OLD AGE HOME

Much has been written about the vast pool of talent currently in the WWF. The matchups that take place in that federation often pit powerful up-and-comers against some of wrestling's hard-boiled veterans. The matches have produced a devastating effect: The WWF is retiring some of the game's greats!

In one program alone, I witnessed the termination of two of wrestling's most illustrious careers. First, they broadcast a replay of seven-time NWA World champion Harley Race's final moments of action when he suffered grievous internal injuries against Hulk Hogan. The prognosis for Race doesn't look good, and he has abdicated his WWF "throne."

Later in the program, I saw an attack by Greg Valentine on the alreadydisabled "Superstar" Billy Graham. The former WWF champion will certainly not make a comeback now; indeed, Graham's future appearances will most likely be confined to the broadcast booth.

It is the nature of the sport that the old should be replaced with the new. The WWF, however, is turning the champions of wrestling's past into slabs of meat for today's hungry young lions. Someone should warn these veterans to leave the ever-expanding WWF before it's too late.

KEN FEOLA Miramar, FL

LUGER RIPPED OFF

I don't know how it could've happened. What maniac would have allowed Lex Luger's Baltimore Bash match with Ric Flair to be halted *before* a submission by the champion, a submission that was sure to follow once Luger hoisted Flair up on his shoulders for the back breaker?



Superstar Graham is helped back to the dressing room after he was attacked by Greg Valentine. Reader Ken Feola thinks veterans like Graham must be extra-careful.



Lex Luger backslides NWA World champion Ric Flair. Their Bash match was stopped due to a cut on Luger's head.

I understand the danger of a bleeding wrestler, but the cut posed no threat to either wrestler. The match had been a classic—until the end, that is. Luger had the belt in his grasp once and for all. And then the ref (under the instructions of some athletic commission paper pusher) stops the match!

I guess Flair has found yet another way to keep his title! What a sham!

MEL FEANY
Portland, OR

COWARDLY CURT

All I want to say is that Curt Hennig is the most cowardly wrestler ever to step into the ring.

Since Jerry Lawler captured the AWA World title from Hennig, how hard has the former champion lobbied for a rematch? Hardly at all. Sure, he's ranted and raved, but if he *really* wanted to wrestle Lawler, he'd be able to use his status as a former AWA World champion to pressure AWA officials to sign the bout. Or, better yet, a *series* of bouts.

The fact of the matter is simply this: Hennig is afraid of Lawler. He knows that he can't regain the World title, he knows that Lawler outclasses him by a mile, and he knows that in the Lawler era of the AWA, he's nowhere!

So good riddance, Hennig. Your aggressiveness stinks, your title reign stunk, and you stink.

ARTHUR FRAMPTON Minneapolis

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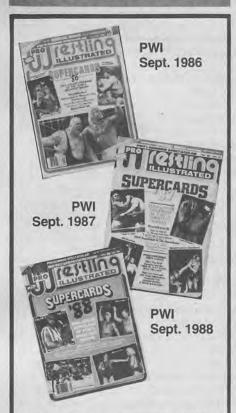
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INQUIRING REPORTER

(Continued from page 12)

his CWA home, and continued to defend against the best his federation had to offer. By going elsewhere, he is mocking his own federation!"

Mark Etkind, Macon, GA: "Don't give me that 'prestige' crap. Prestige is the last thing a champion should be thinking about. Whatever happened to just plain wrestling? I know in my heart that Lawler doesn't defend his title just for prestige. He does it because defending the title and taking on all top challengers, regardless of which federation they may be in, is the only way to be a true champion. And that's what Lawler is. But as far as prestige goes, it doesn't make a damn bit of difference to a real champ. Thank God, too, or else the action inside the ring would eventually become secondary to sheer hype!"

David Kamp, Traverse City, MI: "I think it's too risky. What would be the ramifications of losing the belt to say, World Class champion Kerry Von Erich? What would happen if all federation champions decided to let egotism rule their actions and began squandering their federations' titles by losing to someone else? In that way, one man could eventually emerge will all the belts from every federation! That would only stagnate wrestling, as every wrestler would be gunning for that one man. Already we see this happening with Lawler. By signing a series of matches with 'The King,' Kerry has already begun to forget about the responsibilities of his own title. Is World Class supposed to hibernate until Von Erich and Lawler are finished?"

Elaine Shimberg, Palm Beach, FL: "Prestige and class are the only reasons I watch wrestling. That's why I'm excited by Lawler. He's establishing new guidelines by which all future champions will be judged. From now on, sitting on your duff will not be tolerated. A champion will have to push harder so that the belt around his



Kerry attempts to throw Lawler across the ring. Many fans think Lawler should concentrate solely on competition in the AWA.

waist actually *means* something. Thanks to Lawler, the AWA belt will!"

Anita Juarez, Los Angeles: "Well, believe me, I'm tired of do-nothing champions! The time has come for all champions to meet, once and for all. Whether there's a big payday or added prestige on the line or not, I'm thrilled to see Jerry Lawler and Kerry Von Erich, two of the game's greats, get in the ring against each other. And how can it not increase prestige for the AWA belt as well as for wrestling in general? Now we'll have champions who embrace integrity and honor!"

Ken Kramer, Newport Beach, CA: "It's not an important question. Who cares so long as we, the wrestling fans, get to reap the benefit? And certainly we will if these cross-federation challenges become a new trend in championship wrestling. Some fans may say that federation boundaries should not be breeched, but fans want to see the champions meet. I, for one, can't wait!"

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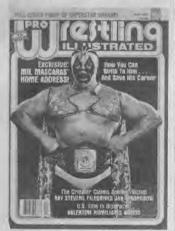
June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel. Adonis & Ventura, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

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October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler. Ric Flair, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. Rick Steamboat, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.



APRIL 1983

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. Mil Mascaras, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

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December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

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July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering, Jimmy Valiant, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

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October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. Kerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. Hogan vs. Piper, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. Magnum T.A, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. Great American Bash, Von Erich, Omdorff, Williams & DiBiase.

State

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody. February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.



APRIL 1986

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. Wendi Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel. June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. Randy Savage, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash, Great American Bash, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham. January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. Dusty & Nikita, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. Magnum T.A., Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted Di-Biase. Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. Ted DiBlase, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior. Sting, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

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INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 22)



Smeared with blood—both his own and Adams'—Taylor argues with the referee.

I'm concerned, Hart's just holding on to his meal ticket with Honky. I'd bet he would be as easy to beat as Adams.

- Q: Why such a deep hatred for Chris Adams? We remember your vicious feud back in the UWF, and when you came to World Class things only got worse. Why did you allow things to escalate they way they did?
- A: Chris and I have that kind of personality thing where we just cannot get along. When we're not around each other, we can be civil people. But when we get together, the personalities clash. There's just something about him that I can't stand, and he'd probably say the same thing about me. The more I'm around him, the more I want to beat him up. I think that's good for professional wrestling and good for the promoters, but not too good for his health. I chased him out of the NWA, the UWF, and now World Class. Good riddance.
- Q: Let me bring up a hypothetical situation. What would happen if Chris Adams were to appear in the WWF? Would there be a resumption of those heated Adams-Taylor wars?

State

A: Yes, I'm sure there would be. This feud will never end until one of us is out of the sport for good. I don't think he'd have the nerve to show his face around here. Every time he comes into an area, he and I have not gotten along. I've beaten him up so bad that he's had to leave every time. I've broken his hand, I've hurt his neck, I've hurt his back, I've bashed his face in. I've made it very uncomfortable for him, but there's no denying he's tried to do the same to me. He's hit me with tables, a catcher's mask, the championship belt, and he slammed my head into the ringpost. I wasn't the one doing all that. I was beating him up with wrestling moves, with my own bare hands. He was the one that was doing the things to try to put me out.



Displaying his viciousness, Taylor slings Brad Armstrong neckfirst over the ropes.

- Q: He also accused you of hiring WWA star Mike George to break his nose and blacken his eyes.
- A: No, no way! Why would I pay somebody for something that I could do better, something I would really *enjoy* doing? That's ridiculous. That claim is as crazy as Adams himself.

Name

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City

- Q: Well, Terry, thanks for the interview. I have a feeling it won't be long before you're one of the most infamous men in the WWF.
- A: Yeah. Thanks for the ink.

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MIDNIGHT ROCKERS

(Continued from page 35)

formed almost four years ago. In an interview given last year in Hawaii, Michaels described the goals he and Jannetty set for themselves.

"First it was the name thing," Michaels said, referring to the difficulty the Rockers had in establishing their credibility. Many pundits dismissed them as knockoffs of the Rock 'n' Roll and Midnight Expresses. "Even after we won the AWA World tag title there remained skeptics. It took al-

most two solid years for the media to take us seriously.

"Now, despite the fact we were two-time AWA World champions, there are people who think we're too small to wrestle with the big boys. Well, I say to hell with them. Like the saying goes, if the mind can think of it, the body can achieve it. The only limits are the ones you impose on yourself. We didn't wait years to get here to be

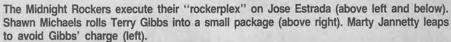
told we can't hack it. We paid too many dues to listen to that crap. We'll wrestle the big boys, and we'll beat them. I don't know when, but I do know why: They don't come tougher than The Midnight Rockers.''

Senior Editor Bill Apter agrees with Michaels. Apter, who has covered the sport professionally for nearly two solid decades, feels size has little relationship to success.











"Size can be easily overcome," says Apter. "Look at other professional sports. Football has Doug Flutie, Steve Largent, and Joe Morris. Basketball offers two men, Mugsy Bogues and Spud Webb, who both stand under 5'6". Wayne Gretzky, arguably the greatest hockev player of all time, is a mere wisp of a man.

"In wrestling, the proof is even more conclusive. How else could Bob Backlund have beaten John Studd? Why was Hulk Hogan able to best Andre the Giant? The list is endless. Former WWF champion Pedro Morales was listed at 5'10". but his actual height was even less, and he beat Don Leo Jonathan and Blackjack Mulligan. Look at Bill Dundee-successful for over a decade at only 5'7". Certainly size and muscle are important, but possessing them does not guarantee success. If it did, Haystacks Calhoun would never have lost."

But Backlund was a veteran, wrestling at the top of his game, when he defeated Studd. Hogan needed years of championship experience to defeat Andre. Morales wrestled with incredible fire and intensity. And no one ever accused Haystacks Calhoun of breaking speed records.

Today's big men are a different breed. Exemplified by Demolition, The Road Warriors, and The Powers of Pain, they move with uncanny speed and agility, like football linemen with the speed of running backs. They are smart and wily; their brains match their brawn.

Can the Rockers overcome men who have no obvious weaknesses, who are bigger and stronger and, perhaps, equally as fast and smart?

"Remember, where there is a will there's a way," Apter says. "Historically, small men have always fared better in tag teams than big men. Dean Ho and Tony Garea. Morton and Gibson. The Funk Brothers. Give the Rockers a chance. I think they'll surprise a lot of people."

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STING

(Continued from page 37)

plex. The cornerstone is weight training. I feel there is no substitute for iron. The success you have in the ring is directly attributable to the amount of time you spend in the gym. I lift weights four times a week. For flexibility and added conditioning, I swim and take calisthenic classes. Basketball is great for increased stamina and cardiovascular health, but my busy schedule doesn't permit me to play as often as I would like. I work out a lot. In the future. I would like to write a book detailing my training techniques.

VI

What has been your toughest match?

A lot of people ask me that, and I think it's the hardest question to answer. My debut match as part of Powerteam U.S.A. took only 45 seconds, but I can't imagine anything being harder. I was so tight and nervous that I thought I would throw up before I got to the ring. The opponent that gives me the

most problems is Ric Flair. He's not the strongest or the toughest, but he's the smartest and most frustrating. If and when I defeat him for the title, it will be my greatest moment.

VII

What would you like to be doing in 10 years?

I would like to be into year eight of my NWA title reign.

VIII

What scares you most about wrestling?

I think serious injury. Which is funny, considering all the high-risk aerial maneuvers I do in the ring. But I keep myself in shape, and hopefully I can avoid any serious injuries. If I ever did get hurt where I couldn't wrestle, I'm not quite sure what I would do.

IX

What has been your most exciting moment in the ring?

At the Baltimore Great American Bash this year, when I dove over the top rope on top of Arn Anderson who was standing on the arena floor. I can't tell you how many
people have come up to me and
said it was the most thrilling moment they've ever witnessed. It
was as thrilling to execute as it
was to watch. I've done that move
before, but usually through the
ropes; over the top was something
special, that's for sure. The adrenaline was gushing that night!

X

Can you see yourself as a rulebreaker again?

It depends upon your definition. If by "rulebreaker" you mean a wrestler who breaks the rules to defeat an opponent, I would have



Sting was once managed by Eddie Gilbert; in fact, they once teamed to win the UWF tag team championship. Now Sting says he doesn't need a manager, preferring to rely on his own skills to win.

to answer yes. When Eddie Gilbert was my manager, I used to rely on breaking the rules, but things are different now. There is no telling what might happen in the course of a match. If you mean will I ever turn against my fans, the answer is no. My fans are my most cherished possession.

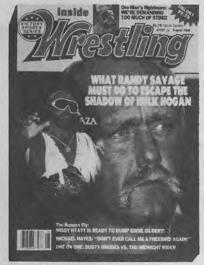


"The Stinger" hiptosses Ric Flair. He says that Flair is his toughest opponent, not because he's stronger, but because he's so smart.

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 14)

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

1978

N NEW ZEALAND, Toru Tanaka was disqualified in his bout with Peter Maivia after delivering a low blow ... Tully Blanchard, son of former wrestler and promoter Joe Blanchard, entered the pro ranks after finishing his studies at West Texas State University ... Another West Texas State graduate, Dusty Rhodes, was ranked in both the WWF and the NWA. Rhodes managed to unmask The Golden Terror in front of 20,000 fans in New York's Madison Square Garden ... Brash newcomer Adrian Adonis challenged fans to pin his shoulders to the mat for a \$5,000 prize ... Wahoo McDaniel campaigned for both the NWA and AWA world titles ... Rocky Johnson and The Sheik battled to a gruesome double-disqualification in Chattanooga, Tennessee ... Ivan Koloff held an impromptu press conference in his hotel room to announce that Mr. Wrestling II was indeed Bob Backlund; he was, of course, wrong ... Ernie Ladd returned to the WWF, not to challenge Backlund for the federation singles title, but to battle former nemesis Bruno Sammartino ... AWA officials caught Bobby Heenan handing AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel a foreign object and levied a strong fine ... Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell were stripped of the AWA tag team title after Brunzell broke a leg in a charity softball game. The belts were awarded to top contenders Pat Patterson and Ray Stevens ... NWA RATINGS: 2-Dusty 1—Harley Race: Rhodes; 3-Rick Steamboat; 4-



Tully Blanchard began wrestling professionally in 1978 under the guidance of his father, former wrestler and promoter Joe Blanchard. Tully, who currently holds one-half of the NWA World tag team title, has won many championships over the past 10 years.



Ivan Koloff tries to pull the mask off Mr. Wrestling II. Koloff once made the ridiculous claim that Wrestling II was really Bob Backlund!

Patera: 7—The Spoiler: 8—Dick Slater; 9-Dory Funk Jr.; 10-Bruiser, AWA RATINGS: 1-Nick Bockwinkel; 2-Verne Gagne; 3-Ray Stevens; 4-Billy Robinson; 5-Crusher; 6-Bob Orton Jr.; 7—Jim Brunzell; 8—Greg Gagne; 9—Larry Hennig; 10—Mighty Igor. WWF RATINGS: 1-Bob Backlund: 2-Ivan Koloff; 3-Dusty Rhodes: 4—Superstar Graham; 5-Victor Rivera; 6-Dino Bravo; 7-Luke Graham; 8-Ivan Putski; 10-Stan 9—Spiros Arion: Stasiak, TAG TEAMS: 1-Baron Von Raschke & Greg Valentine; 2—The Yukon Lumberjacks; 3— Ray Stevens & Pat Patterson; 4-Paul Jones & Rick Steamboat; 5-Jack & Jerry Brisco; 6-Mr. Sato & Mr. Saito; 7-Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell; 8-Steve Keirn & 9—Blackjack Mike Graham; Lanza & Bob Orton Jr.; 10-Chavo & Hector Guerrero.

Ric Flair: 5—Jack Brisco: 6—Ken

(Continued on page 58)

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April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy,

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff. June 1983/Stories include: Windham,



JULY 1983

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

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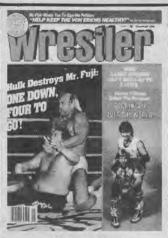
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gan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express. October 1985/Stories include: Flair. Windham, Shultz, Martel

SEPT 88



NOVEMBER 1985

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs. December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmei

January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich. Duggan, Hansen-Martel

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A. May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan. September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

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Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat April 1987/Stories include: Hogan. Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig. June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 56)

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

1973

WWF RECORD was set when Prof. Toru Tanaka and Mr. Fuii defeated Havstacks Calhoun and Tony Garea for the federation's tag team title in Philadelphia. The victory marked the first time that a team had become two-time champions ... Calhoun was the special referee as WWF titlist Pedro Morales battled George "The Animal" Steele in a cage match in Boston. Despite Steele's use of a foreign object, Morales staggered the bloody Steele with punches and walked through the cage door victoriously ... In St. Louis, Harley Race beat Gene Kiniski for the Missouri State title on October 13. This began Race's second reign as state titleholder; he won a tournament in 1972 to win the belt for the first time ... NWA President Sam Muchnick announced a number of rule changes that he hoped would make the sport safer. Among them were immediate disqualifications for low blows, striking the referee, and throwing an opponent over the top rope ... Wrestling fans clamored for a WWF title shot for top contender Chief Jay Strongbow ... Claiming he wanted to personally gauge the effectiveness of the sport's most dangerous maneuver, Sports Review Wrestling editor Bill Apter was a willing victim of Stan Stasiak's heart punch. After Apter had been rushed to the hospital, Stasiak said, "Of course I didn't punch him as hard as I can. The last thing I need on my hands is a dead reporter." Apter was held overnight for observation and re-

Angeles, fans watched on TV as Dr. Bernhardt Schwartz stitched Victor Rivera's face after a match with "Maniac" John Tolos. NWA RATINGS: 1-Jack Brisco; 2-Harley Race: 3-Terry Funk; 4-Dory Funk Jr.; 5-The Sheik: 6-Bruno Sammartino: 7—Lou Thesz; 8-Johnny Valentine; 9-Pat Patterson; 10-Bobby Shane. **BATINGS:** 1-Verne AWA Gagne: 2-Superstar Graham; 3-Billy Robinson: 4-Wahoo Mc-Daniel: 5-Ivan Koloff: 6-Crusher: 7-Geoff Portz: 8-Ken Patera; 9-Reg Parks; 10-Larry Heinimi, WWF RATINGS: 1-Pedro Morales, 2-Chief Jay Strong-

bow; 3-Blackjack Lanza; 4-Stan Stasiak: 5-Haystacks Calhoun: 6-Tony Garea: 7-Toru Tanaka; 8-Mike McCord; 9-Mr. Fuii: 10-Manuel Soto. TAG TEAMS: 1-Killer Brooks & Ben Justice; 2-Toru Tanaka & Mr. Fuji; 3-Ray Stevens & Nick Bockwinkel: 4-Bruno Sammartino & Edouard Carpentier; 5-The Fabulous Kangaroos; 6—Pak Song & Mr. Wrestling; 7-Rip Hawk & Bobby Shane; 8-Haystacks Calhoun & Tony Garea; 9-Black Gordman & Goliath; 10-Blackjack Mulligan & The Missouri Mauler.

(Continued on page 60)



overnight for observation and relation and relation leased the next day ... In Los team championship twice when they defeated Haystacks Calhoun and Tony Garea.

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dre, Piper, Dillon.

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MARCH 1986

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude. April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard. July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A. August 1986/Stories include: Wrestle-Mania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones. September 1986/Stories include: Andre,Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 58)

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

NE OF THE most controversial managers in wrestling history, The Grand Wizard, died on October 12 ... Shortly after winning the Georgia title from Larry Zbyszko, Brett Wayne revealed that Buzz Sawyer was his brother ... Bob Orton and Dick Slater collected a \$25,000 bounty from Harley Race for attacking Ric Flair and putting him in the hospital. Flair later announced via videotape that his injuries were forcing him to retire, but it was a ploy: He ran from the dressing room swinging a baseball bat at Orton and Slater during their tag team match . . . Flair also traveled to Puerto Rico and nearly defeated Pedro Morales for the WWC North American title . . . The Florida title changed hands three times in three days: Barry Windham beat Jos LeDuc in Sarasota on September 17, LeDuc regained it in Orlando on the 18th, and Windham got it back in West Palm Beach on the 19th ... Blackjack Lanza had a falling out with his manager, Bobby Heenan, after Heenan accidentally hit Lanza with brass knuckles during a match against Greg Gagne Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka wrestled two matches in one night in St. Louis, Missouri. In a tag team confrontation he teamed with Dick the Bruiser to face Killer Karl Krupp and Blackjack Mulligan; in a singles match his opponent was Roger Kirby. In both matches, Snuka performed the "Superfly leap" and both times he was disqualified; the "Superfly" was illegal in Missouri at the time. NWA RATINGS: 1-Harley Race; 2-



The Grand Wizard, who managed both Stan Stasiak and Superstar Graham to the WWF World title, died in 1983, leaving a permanent mark on the sport's history.

Greg Valentine; 3-David Von Erich; 4-Barry Windham; 5-Brett Wayne; 6-Rufus R. Jones; 7-Mike Rotundo; 8-Ric Flair; 9-Tommy Rich; 10-Avalanche Tyler. AWA RATINGS: 1-Nick Bockwinkel; 2-Hulk Hogan; 3-Mad Dog Vachon; 4-Rick Martel; 5-Brad Rheingans; 6-Mr. Saito; 7-Ken Patera; 8-Billy Robinson: 9-Greg Gagne; 10-David Shultz. WWF RATINGS: 1-Bob Backlund; 2-Masked Superstar; 4—Jimmy 3—Don Muraco; Snuka; 5—Sqt. Slaughter; 6—Tito Santana; 7—Iron Sheik; 8—Tony Atlas; 9-Rocky Johnson; 10-Ivan Putski. TAG TEAMS: 1-Jack & Jerry Brisco; 2-Ken Patera & Crusher Blackwell; 3-The Road Warriors; 4—The Freebirds: 5-Elijah Akeem & Kareem Muhammad; 6-The Samoans; 7-Butch Reed & Jim Neidhart; 8-Steve Keirn & Stan Lane; 9-The Masked Medics; 10-Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood.

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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)

Texas champion. Terry Taylor, the former champion, forfeited a title match against Von Erich at the July 4 card, forcing World Class officials to award the belt to the challenger. Taylor, World Class officials announced, failed to show for the match after Von Erich had injured him the night before in Ft. Worth.

"Now, World Class fans will know what a *real* Texas champion is all about," said the jubilant Von Erich during a "victory" celebration after the card. "Taylor wasn't injured that badly. He was just scared to meet me again, so he turned his yellow tail and left Texas."

Taylor was scheduled to debut in the World Wrestling Federation later in the month. —Andrew Ray

Hickerson shocked Memphis fans by capturing the CWA title from Max Pain following a hotly disputed match July 3 at the Mid-South Coliseum here. Hickerson hadn't been actively wrestling in Memphis—or anywhere, for that matter—for months, and was considered by most fans and observers as a negligi-

ble force in the sport at best.

"A lot of these fool wrestling fans thought I was gone for good," said Hickerson, who quickly has become the most hated man in Memphis. "Beatin' that big punk was no trouble at all, just like stealin' candy from a baby! When Jerry Lawler finally gets back here, I'll grab that AWA World title just as easily."

What Hickerson failed to mention is that he had a considerable amount of help from Robert Fuller, manager of the "Stud Stable," during the title match with Pain. The 6'6", 350-pound sensation had dominated the smaller (6'1", 257) Hickerson throughout the bout. But when Fuller distracted the referee, Hickerson pulled a chain from his tights and used it to bash Pain across the skull. The unconscious young star had to be helped back to the dressing room following the match.

"That's just like Fuller to get involved with something he had no business in," said Pain afterward. "An old bum like Hickerson would have no chance at all of beating me in a *fair* match. They think they're pretty funny, but it won't be long



MAX PAIN

before they'll be sorry for what they did to me."

"What's Pain doin', makin' excuses for bein' beaten by a real man?" responded Fuller. "That's too damn bad. My 'Stud Stable' is now the finest conglomeration of talent in the world, with Hickerson, Jimmy Golden, Gary Young-and myself, of course!"

At press time, Pain was lobbying CWA officials for a rematch with Hickerson, who has failed to respond to demands for a return bout. -Randy Swift

ARIETTA, GA: Col. Buck Robley has returned to wrestling from a four-year hiatus to make life miserable for Mr. Wrestling II in the Southern Championship Wrestling area. Robley has sneak-attacked Wrestling II numerous times, trying to win the \$5,000 bounty placed on the veteran by Mr. Atlanta.



BUCK ROBLEY

"They tried to keep me away, but they couldn't do it," claims the manic Robley, who now wrestles with a brace on his right arm, which many claim is lined with steel. "In my first appearance here, I almost busted Wrestling II's shoulder. Next time, he won't have a chance to escape."

Robley is also the new manager of Abdullah the Butcher. Wrestling II, meanwhile, has enlisted "Gentleman" Chris Adams and Ranger Ross to back him up in his wars against Robley and Abdullah.

—B.W. Foreman□

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SPRING 1986/Color pinup: The Road Warriors. Stories include: Martel, Savage vs. Poffo, Hogan, Santana, Steamboat.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinup: Rock 'n' Roll Express & Magnum T.A. Stories include: Flair, Warriors, JYD, Magnum, Williams.

FALL 1986/Color pinup: Randy Savage. Stories include: R&R Express, Missy, Roberts, Windham, Luger, Rhodes.

WINTER 1986/Color pinup: Hulk Hogan, Stories include: Flair, Freebirds, Hogan, Andre, Watts, Haynes, Fantastics.

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The Honky Tonk Man

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- 2RIC FLAIR 243, Minneapolis, MN NWA World champion
- 3 JERRY LAWLER 234, Memphis, TN AWA World champion
- 4 LEX LUGER 268, Chicago, IL No. 2 contender: NWA title
- 5 TED DIBIASE 247, Omaha, NB No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 6 STING
 260, Venice Beach, CA
 No. 3 contender: NWA title
- 7 KERRY VON ERICH 260, Denton, TX World Class champion
- 8BARRY WINDHAM 236, Sweetwater, TX U.S. heavyweight champion
- 9 THE HONKY TONK MAN 255, Memphis, TN WWF Intercontinental champion
- 10 KEVIN VON ERICH 235, Denton, TX World Class Texas champion

TAG TEAMS

- 1 TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON
 Combined weight: 484 pounds
 NWA World tag team champions
- 2 THE ROAD WARRIORS
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- 3 DEMOLITION
 Combined weight: 585 pounds
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- 4 BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE
 Combined weight: 453 pounds
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- 5 THE FANTASTICS Combined weight: 462 pounds No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title
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 Combined weight: 655 pounds
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- 10—BLACK BART 261, Pampa, TX

OFFIGIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board, Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

- **RANDY SAVAGE** 245, Sarasota, FL Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 260, Venice Beach, CA Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- **ZLEX LUGER** 268, Chicago, IL Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- **JAKE ROBERTS** 246, Stone Mountain, GA Last month: unrated
- DUSTY RHODES 302, Austin, TX Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- GJERRY LAWLER 234, Memphis, TN Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- **HACKSAW DUGGAN** 280, Glens Falls, NY Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- SKERRY VON ERICH 260, Denton, TX Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR 280, Queens, NY Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- **KEVIN VON ERICH** 235, Denton, TX Last month: unrated

MOST HATED

- ANDRE THE GIANT 497, Grenoble, France Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- RIC FLAIR 243, Minneapolis, MN Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- **2** TED DIBIASE 247, Omaha, NB Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- **BARRY WINDHAM** 236, Sweetwater, TX Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- RICK RUDE 246, Robbinsdale, MN Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- THE HONKY TONK MAN 255, Memphis, TN Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- **EDDIE GILBERT** 222, Lexington, TN
 Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
- **CURT HENNIG** 235, Minneapolis, MN Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
- **RONNIE GARVIN** 231, Montreal, Quebec Last month: unrated
- MANNY FERNANDEZ 245, El Paso, TX Last month: unrated

For period ended July 15, 1988

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues-in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only-and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—RIC FLAIR94	points
2-RANDY SAVAGE62	points
3-HULK HOGAN60	points
4LEX LUGER55	-
5—STING32	

TAG TEAMS	
1-TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON 90	points
2—THE ROAD WARRIORS82	points
3—THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS69	points
4-RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA50	points
5-DEMOLITION38	points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion: **MAKHAN SINGH**

380, Saginaw, MI

- 1-JOHNNY SMITH 235, Manchester, England
- 2-CHRIS BENOIT 218, Edmonton, Alberta
- 3—STEVE BLACKMAN 250, Pittsburgh, PA
- 4-STEVE DISALVO 298, Boston, MA
- -KERRY BROWN 225, Kansas City, MO
- -BRUCE HART 211, Calgary, Alberta
- -CUBAN ASSASSIN 236. Cuba
- 8—JERRY MORROW 235, Martinique
- -GAMA SINGH 220, Karachi, Pakistan
- 10—BRIAN PILLMAN 226, Cincinnati, OH

CWA

CWA Champion: PHIL HICKERSON 257, Jackson, TN

1-MAX PAIN

- 350, Iowa City, IA 2—BRICKHOUSE BROWN
- 225, Winter Haven, FL 3—CURT HENNIG
- 235, Minneapolis, MN
- 4—ROBERT FULLER 238, Dyresburg, TN
- 5—SCOTT STEINER 235, Detroit, MI
- 6-JEFF JARRETT 200, Hendersonville, TN
- 7-GARY YOUNG 240. Houston, TX
- 8—JIMMY GOLDEN 235, Montgomery, AL
- 9—JIMMY VALIANT 251, New York, NY
- 10-DON BASS 230, Memphis, TN

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion: **TITLE VACANT**

To be filled in upcoming tourney

- 1-EDDIE GILBERT 222, Lexington, TN
- 2-AUSTIN IDOL 240, Las Vegas, NV
- 3-LORD HUMONGOUS 325, parts unknown
- 4-TOM PRICHARD 220, Houston, TX
- 5—TONY ANTHONY 235, Bucksnorth, TN
- 6-MR. OLYMPIA 242, parts unknown
- 7—KEN WAYNE 208, Memphis, TN
- 8—DAN DAVIS 238, Nashville, TN
- 9—SHANE DOUGLAS 223, Pittsburgh, PA
- 10—DETROIT DEMOLITION 310, Detroit, MI

Women

- 1-SHERRI MARTEL WWF World women's champion
- -MISTY BLUE SIMMES NWA U.S. women's champion
- 3—WENDI RICHTER WWC women's champion
- 4-MADUSA MICELI AWA World women's champion
- 5—HEIDI LEE MORGAN No. 1 contender to AWA title
- -BRANDI MAE No. 2 contender to AWA title
- 7—ROCKIN' ROBIN No. 1 contender to WWF title
- 8-LINDA DALLAS No. 1 contender to U.S. title
- 9-VELVET McINTYRE No. 2 contender to WWF title
- 10—DEBBIE COMBS No. 3 contender to AWA title

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

A new number one! For the first time since winning the WWF World championship on March 27 at WrestleMania IV, Randy Savage has moved into the top spot in our Top 10 ratings, displacing NWA World champion Ric Flair. Flair dropped to number two while AWA World champion Jerry Lawler remains in the third spot.

The reasons for the change are quite simple. As champion, Savage has embarked on a heavy schedule of title defenses. He has rarely relied on outside interference, despite

the tactics of top contender **Ted DiBi**ase. And Savage's victory in a steel cage match at Madison Square Garden in late June strengthened his position as champion.

Meanwhile, Flair continues—more than ever!—to rely on the interference of J.J. Dillon and The Four Horsemen to retain his belt. Even more important, Flair has been defending his belt less than ever. He was scheduled for only

one title defense—July 10 against Lex Luger in Baltimore—during the entire Great American Bash. Two years ago, Flair defended the title almost every night during the Bash.

Top 10 ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of the wrestlers. Savage's credentials are impeccable in each category. He is a worthy number one.

You'd think the people would have had enough of silly ratings! But we're bringing them back again. Almost two years ago, we asked you to come up with your own offbeat ratings category, compile a set of ratings, and send it to "Ratings Analysis." The response was overwhelming. Readers rated the "10 Most Obnoxious Wrestlers," the "10 Wrestlers Who Had Better Retire Before They Get Crippled," "10 Beautiful Blonds Of Wrestling," "Wrestlers' Foreheads," "Best Bellybuttons In The WWF," "Couples Of Wrestling," and the "Most Devastating Finishing Maneuvers." It was interesting and a lot of fun.

So we're asking you again to come up with some new categories (or even update the old ones) and send them to us at *Sports Review Wrestling*. If it's interesting or funny—or hopefully both!—we'll print it in a future installment.

Just to get things rolling, we've decided to print an unusual, but interesting, off-beat ratings category sent in by Robert G. Gruber of Newburgh, New York. Robert ranked the top 10 world champions of all time and writes, "As you go down the list, you will see that Hulk Hogan didn't even get into my ratings. Even though Hogan held the WWF title for 4½ years, he has no scientific skills whatsover."

ALL-TIME TOP 10 WORLD CHAMPIONS

1-LOU THESZ

Six-time NWA champ 1937-66

2—BRUNO SAMMARTINO Two-time WWF champ 1963-77

3—VERNE GAGNE Nine-time AWA champ 1960-80

4—HARLEY RACE Seven-time NWA champ 1973-83

5—BOB BACKLUND WWF champ 1978-83

6—GENE KINISKI NWA champ 1966-69; AWA champ 1961

7—DORY FUNK JR. NWA champ 1969-73

8—JACK BRISCO Two-time NWA champ 1973-74

9—RIC FLAIR
Five-time NWA champ 1981-present

10—RICK MARTEL AWA champ 1984-85

Here they come again! For the second time since instituting a revolving ratings category, women take the center stage this month. Several of these women—WWF champ Sherri Martel, NWA U.S. champ Misty Blue Simmes, and WWC

champ Wendi Richter—have retained their belts since the last time we rated them, in the February 1988 issue (covering the period through October 8, 1987). But there have been plenty of changes in the AWA. Madusa Miceli won the vacant women's title and is now trying to hold off challenges from Heidi Lee Morgan and Brandi Mae. Madusa's tag team partner, Debbie Combs, could also pose a challenge in the near future. Meanwhile,



Sherri Martel

"Sensational" Sherri appears to have a stranglehold on the WWF belt. The Fabulous Moolah is no longer wrestling, while Rockin' Robin and Velvet McIntyre have posed only minor threats to Martel's title.

Send us your criticism, your comments, your questions ... and your silly ratings categories. We need all the mail we can get, and all you want to send. The address is: "Ratings Analysis" c/o Sports Review Wrestling; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

Randy Savage

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